--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - “Benson & Hedges” - [1-80E] - 1966 ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of their New York branch in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906.

In the late 1920’s “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian cigar market when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.”, Montreal - who had been manufacturing cigars since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated” (which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954) also merged with “Benson and Hedges” (Canada) Limited [8-10D], and in 1961 opened a modern cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [1-80-E].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges” (Canada) Limited purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [30-10D] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal, where “Tabacofina” had for some years manufactured *Belvedere* cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes included *Parliament; Alpine; Benson & Hedges* 100 mm., plain and menthol; *Mark* 10, plain and menthol; *Belvedere*, and *Belmont*. After this date production was moved to the new factory [1-80-E] in Brampton, Ontario.

--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - “Benson & Hedges” - [80E-1] - 1968-69 ---

The following series found on the imperforate twenty cigarette Series “C” uses a heavy 5 mm. Gothic letter as a date code. They come from the period post-1965 (after the code reversal to **80E 1**). From the presence of three vowels in the ten letters, I feel that these probably form a twelve letter code word reading as the months.

Counting those used on the twenty-five cigarettes used by their affiliate (“Canadian Tabacofina Limited”), and adding those from “Benson & Hedges”, the letters **A**, **C**, **E**, **H**, **I**, **K**, **L**, **O**, **R**, **T** and **W** have been collected from this sequence.

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, imperforate, coded **T / 80 . E . 1 / T** by “Benson & Hedges”

--- in red ink - no copies to date ---

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--- 20 Cigarettes - “Wings” Series - Benson & Hedges, Brampton - [80E-1] - 1969-74 ---

Then follows a numbered sequence on the imperforate twenty cigarette ***Wings*** Series stamp using a heavy Gothic typeface, running from **02** to **81** (the highest found to date).

The use of the imperforate twenty cigarette ***Wings*** Series seems to have begun with **01** in January 1969. If this number sequence ends at **80** (in August 1974), and if they represent *monthly production*, then the series covers 82 ÷ 12 = 6 years and 10 months (see below).

★**RC-815** - 20 cigarettes, imperf, coded **81 / 80 · E · 1 / 81** by “Benson & Hedges”, Brampton

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--- in red ink - 23 copies to date ---

[★RC-815]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	---	**02**	**03**	**04**	---	---	---	---	**09**	**10**	**11**	---
1969	---	---	**15**	**16**	---	**18**	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	---	---	**27**	**28**	---	**30**	---	---	---	---	**35**	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**48**
1972	---	**50**	**51**	---	**53**	---	---	---	---	---	**59**	---
1973	**61**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1974	**73**	**74**	---	---	---	**78**	---	**80**	**81**	---	---	---

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If this number sequence ends at **80** (in August 1974), and if they represent *months of production*, then the series covers 80 ÷ 12 = 6 years and 8 months. Counting these numbers back from August 1974 would translate into an initial date of use for **01** as January 1968 - which is not bad for the ***Wings*** introduction. I am assuming that **81** was prepared but not used.

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 20 cigarettes \ 80E-1 - small - red cancels],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 22nd 2013, JBH